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in Bristol in 1840 to his death in Rome in 1893. Symonds had a checkered and rather pathetic career, and Mr. Brooks has told in a plain and straightforward manner the story of that fretful and roaming life. Incidentally, Mr. Brooks has written a book that the reviewer has read from cover to cover without finding a dull page in it.

EDWIN W. BOWEN.

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A HISTORY OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY. By Otto A. Rothert. Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton & Company.

Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, established in 1798, out of parts of Christian and Logan Counties, lies just south of Green River, with Greenville as its county-seat. In Mr. Otto A. Rothert, who is a member of the Filson Club and other historical societies, Muhlenberg County has luckily found one who cares for the past, and who has devoted time and money to preserve for later generations the details as to the settlement and development of the county which can now be gathered. Mr. Rothert writes, "The records of the County and Circuit Court from the beginning have been preserved in the courthouse at Greenville, and in all probability will always be preserved. I have, therefore, made no attempt to write a history based principally on these ever-available records, but have confined my work as much as possible to collecting the now-vanishing traditions, and to presenting the less available material." It is to be hoped that Mr. Rothert's optimism as to the imperishableness of these county records may long prove justified,—at least until these records have been printed. "A few of the traditions," writes the author further, "have almost as many versions as they are years old. Where various versions are in circulation, I have accepted the one that in my opinion seemed the most authentic." For this frank statement, students of history will thank Mr. Rothert, as it shows what they are to expect and what they are not to expect in his work. The volume is profusely illustrated, and these pictures constitute one of the valuable features of the work, which in general is much superior to the average county history. One notes with particular pleasure the absence of the usual stuffing of biographical matter paid for by the persons thus honored.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT.